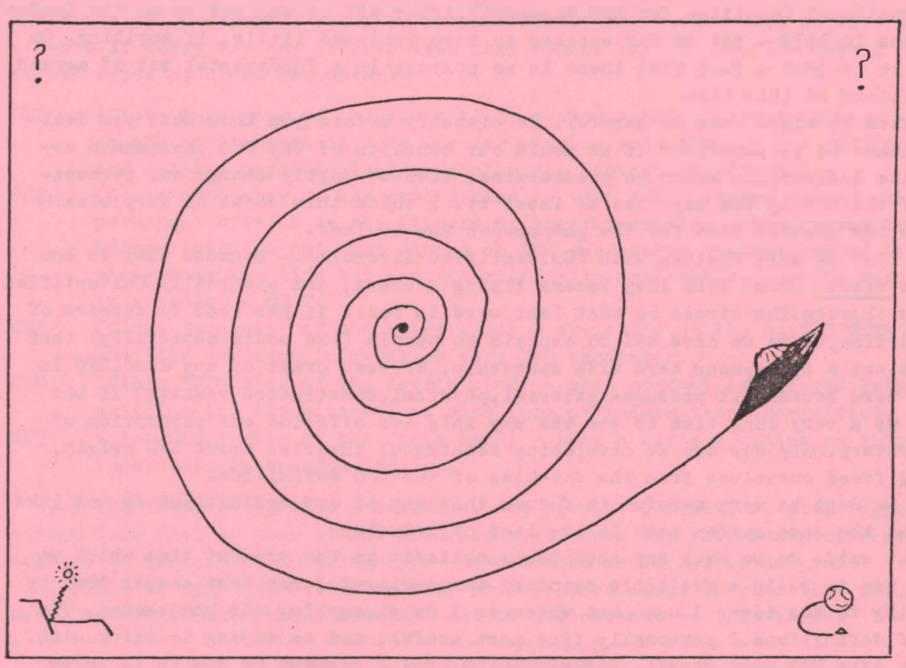
NORTHERN UFO NEWS

114

JULY - AUGUST 1985



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CASE HISTORIES:- Time-loss, car-stop, CE3 from Todmorden (p.11-14)

JR Comments... Over recent years there has been a fair amount of comment in the UFO media about the desirability of proper classification and definition of UFOs.But is it really necessary? I wonder.

Over the eight years I have been writing a great deal about the UFO subject I have toyed with many different schemes to classify what we investigate.I have helped modify the Hynek scheme, invented new ones for computer-matrix use (UFO REALITY) and still we all appear to use our own individual ideas.There is nothing in the way of an accepted universal standard.Perhaps that is a failing of ICUR (International Committee for UFO Research).After all it was set up at the London congress in 1979 - yet so far appears to have achieved little, if anything. Or maybe it is just a fact that there is no purpose in a fundamental set of agreed definitions at this time.

Indeed it might even be harmful. To classify before you know what you deal with leads to presumptions.If we mould our concepts of the UFO phenomenon around the definitions which we predetermine, then we subtly change our perception of the UFO by the way that we label it. I think this shows up very clearly in how the generic name for the phenomenon has evolved.

In 1947 we were dealing with "Unidentified Aircraft" - because that is how people viewed UFOs. Then they became flying saucers, and eventually Unidentified flying objects.The stress on that last word is real. It has lead to decades of wasted time,where we have had to explain to people (the media especially) that UFO is not a synonymous term with spaceship, or even craft of any kind.UFO is a bad term because it presumes material,physical,constructed reality. It has taken us a very long time to see the way this has effected our perception of the mystery.Only now are we developing meaningful theories about UFO origin, having freed ourselves from the shackles of the UFO definition.

So we must be very careful in future that any of our definitions do not take us down the same garden path to the land of delusions.

That said, do we have any acceptable criteria at the present time which we might use to build a realistic standard terminology? I can best answer that by refering to the terms I use most whenever I am discussing the phenomenon. The set of definitions I personally find most useful, and am trying to stick with.

The term UFO must remain, unfortunately. But I suggest we use it to refer to a raw case.A UFO is a UFO at stage one. But then,when it is investigated, it quickly becomes one of three other possibilities. Chances are it will become an IFO (Identified Flying Object).90 per cent of cases do. The term ought to become more engrained in our literature,I think. In a TV programme in March Sarah Kennedy had to ask what an IFO was! It is our fault she did not know.

Assuming that the report is one of the other 10 per cent there are two broad areas it could now fall into.If it has no suggestion of an alien component, as most reports frankly do not, then I believe we must stick with the term UAP (Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomenon).This affords far less presumption, and can cover all manner of possibilities (including earthlights,plasmas,ball lightning and unexplained novel atmospherio effects). Those cases which do suggest an alien origin, where contact occurs for instance, or at least an objective constructed origin (rather than a pure phenomenon) I propose to call "Exotic UFOs" - which still leaves our options open, and separates them from the raw UFO and,most importantly, the UAP.

In other words we have an equation:- UFO (after investigation) = either IFO UAP or EXOTIC UFO.

What about classifying the kinds of UFO reported? There is really no way that we can avoid the popularity of the Hynek scheme.I believe (provided we accept and modify its drawbacks)it can be used.I have developed a sort of hybrid of his original version, the one Peter Warrington and I defined in UFOs a BRITISH VIEWPOINT (in 1979) and a few new ideas. This is how it stands:-

LITS (Light in the sky) - a convenient term for any UFO without specific shape - eg star-like,blobs,lights, glows,or round (which means the same)

MED (Medium Definition) - any UFO with specific shape (and it must be more than just vague) - eg a domed disc, a cigar, conical etc.

The above two categories refer to plain,ordinary UFO events with no interactive effects.If there are any effects then they become one of the five (yes I said five!) types of close encounter:-

CE1 (Close Encounter of the first kind) - when a UFO interacts with a witness or the environment in some way (eg witness goes through the "Oz Factor" and relates physiological/psychological distortion effects).

CE2 (Close Encounter of the second kind) - when a UFO leaves behind semi-permanent effects on the witness or environment (eg burns,ground traces) Things which do not just depend on the subjective impressions of the witness at the time but are scientifically analysable. A photo case is, in a sense, a CE 2.

CE3 (Close Encounter of the third kind) - obviously,as the movie, when "alien" entities are seen in relation to a UFO encounter.

CE4 (Close Encounter of the fourth kind) - when contact is alleged between entities and the witness; ie some form of information transmitted.

CE5 (Close Encounter of the fifth kind) - when a witness claims an abduction experience on board a UFO.

I think these categories make sense, are simple to remember, stem logically enough from what we know of the phenomenon and where the phenomenon currently appears to extend to. Anything more complicated would not be helpful.

I would be very interested to hear from readers about whether they think we could create an acceptable standard set of definitions on this basis.

NEWS ROUND-UP

:: CSICOP held their 3rd international conference in London on 28-29 June. Amongst the speakers (debunking everything in sight) were Philip Klass on UFOs, magician James RAndi and Arthur C Clark researcher Melvin Harris. It seems that CSICOP wanted to avoid having non-debunkers there,as they sent me bumph about it 5 days beforehand.Not exactly allowing much promotion!

:: Specialist Knowledge Services (30 South Row Blackheath London SE3 ORY) is another cut-price bookseller,with many new books at bargain rates.They have catalogues on each of a range of topics (UFOs is just one), and they are very wellstocked and presented.Why not send an SAE for a selection?

:: WAPIT write very concerned about a Daily Mirror advert for a "Solar Powered UFO"! Its a kite/solar powered airship which HOPES (MR31 Blenheim Gardens Londoh SW2) are marketting for just £3.54 (post inc).It has "UFO" on the side!The advert claims"So huge people can see it from all around" and "onlookers simply cannot believe their eyes". YIPES!

:: Another great offer comes from Jean Michael BP 60 40520 Biscarrosse France. He is offering the cosmic video from IASOS (a famous new-age cosmic music maker apparently).In Beta or VHS this 30 min stereo sound video has his celestial music (transmitted from "actual alive beings;this moment pulsing with unimaginable life and love"),plus spaced out special effects by NASA. (:) It promises to be a unique experience...which is probably what your bank manager will say when he finds out it costs US $ 82: Title:-CRYSTAL VISTA .

WHERE HAVE ALL THE UFOs GONE - AGAIN?

Readers will know that UFO societies world wide have noted the dramatic fall in the number of sightings post 1979.Even the French government UFO team GEPAN have commented on this recently.NEW SCIENTIST (16 May) finally got round to the fact,saying,"missing from the scene for a long time,to the disappintment of many of us,are flying saucers.As far as I can find out,which may not,of course, be far,there have been no sightings of note in any of the skies of Europe,the US, or south America for months or even years.If their absence is confirmed how do we account for it?" But fear not,this is not New Scientist suddenly being very serious.The suggested reasons include "they could have given us up in despair" and "cuts in research grants at home are curtailing expeditions".

Joviality apart it is a serious problem, for the decline continues at an ever alarming rate.We are (supposedly) climbing now to the new high of the ten-year cycle (in 1987) but the sightings totals continue to go down (not up).As anyone who has tried to write a UFO book over recent years will tell you publishers argue "the UFO craze is over.Nobody will buy books on this subject any more.Its had its day". One feels there must be a relation between this sensing of public mood and the decrease in sightings.

However,what is interesting is that media interest in UFOs seems to have grown in a rather curious opposing fashion.This allows us to test one of the basic premises of the UFO skeptic...that UFO sightings are generated by media interest. Having kept a careful record of the number of press cuttings received from the Durrants agency in my capacity as BUFORA Director of Investigations I can now offer a set of statistics which contrast the number of cuttings* with the number of UFO sightings: So here goes: (* in UK national and provincial papers)

PC = Press Cuttings B = BUFORA cases N = NUFON cases

1982	Total PC= 328			B= 29		N= 56									
Jan	PC (14)	B (2)	N (5)	Feb	PC (24)	B (1)	N (3)	Mar	PC (61)	B (6)	N(1)				
Apr	(45)	(3)	(9)	May	(27)	(0)	(2)	Jun	(9)	(1)	(2)				
Jul	(31)	(2)	(2)	Aug	(15)	(6)	(17)	Sep	(24)	(4)	(5)				
Oct	(37)	(4)	(6)	Nov	(25)	(1)	(1)	Dec	(16)	(0)	(3)				
1983	Total PC= 390			B= 35		N= 31									
Jan	(23)	(3)	(2)	Feb	(22)	(3)	(2)	Mar	(15)	(3)	(1)				
Apr	(17)	(3)	(2)	May	(15)	(2)	(3)	Jun	(11)	(4)	(3)				
Jul	(31)	(3)	(3)	Aug	(23)	(4)	(5)	Sep	(54)	(4)	(4)				
Oct	(83)	(5)	(3)	Nov	(68)	(1)	(0)	Dec	(28)	(0)	(3)				
1984	Total PC= 291			B= 19		N= 18									
Jan	(22)	(3)	(2)	Feb	(28)	(0)	(2)	Mar	(28)	(0)	(0)				
Apr	(15)	(3)	(3)	May	(32)	(1)	(1)	Jun	(28)	(0)	(0)				
Jul	(22)	(1)	(1)	Aug	(29)	(7)	(3)	Sep	(29)	(2)	(2)				
Oct	(13)	(2)	(2)	Nov	(35)	(0)	(0)	Dec	(10)	(0)	(2)				

As far as 1985 goes, to date NUFON has 6 cases.Bufora 1. Cuttings are at 73 (which compares with the equivalent Jan-Jun figures for 1982(180),1983 (103),1984 (153)...ie well down on all of the past three years.It may or may not be relevant that Sky Crash was published (to nil publicity) in Nov 1984 - and the remarkable fall off in cutting rates appears to have begun then.

Frankly,I don't see many crumbs of comfort in these figures for those who say that when UFOs are in the news there will be more sightings.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:-
Major articles elsewhere

QUEST (£6,6 issues,68 Buller Crescent,Leeds LS9 6LJ)
Still amazing value for money - two 42 page A4 size issues crammed full of stuff.You can't afford to be without it now that FSR is so turgid.Mar/Apr has a detailed review of the March conference in Leeds (plus press reaction) Also an in-depth report on the lecture given by former head of the MoD UFO department (DS 8),Ralph Noyes, in April.A very perceptive analysis. May/Jun has excellent reviews (in depth)of both "A Secret Property" and "Clear Intent"

YUFOS also offer at £5,post inc,the full 50pp case report entitled "A perfect cover up" (maps,sketches etc) on the 23 Jul 1984 Leeds encounter.Buy it!

BUFORA BULLETIN (Sub: £14 pa, 6 issues 30 Vermont Rd London SE19 3SR)
May 85 No 17: Each issue is getting better and better.40pp A5,very neatly set. Many detailed cases.Paul Norman updates the Valentich disappearance (with ground to air radio transcript).Hilary Evans on UFOs/science 'frontiers'.Ken Philips on latest Anamnesis results.Brendan Taylor on month of year and time of day statistics.JR on the differences between CE3/CE4/CE5 time-lapse cases. Nigel Watson on HG Wells and UFOs.

INFINITY (Vol 3 No 3; 73 Torbrex Rd Cumbernauld Glasgow G67 2JU)
In "Reality and mechanism in modern science" JE Best describes the consequence of the 1982 experiment which resolved the Einstein-Rosen paradox and proved that FTL data transmission is not only possible but happens.

ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA REVIEW (2.2. £2.52 pa 443 Meadow Lane Nottingham NG2 3GB)
This will help explain why NUFOIS have left NUFON.They have metamorphosed to incorporate APRA (Anomalous Phenomena Research Association) and discuss an in-depth local earth mystery investigation this issue,saying of UFOs,"there is now no longer any reason to feel UFOs require anything other than purely conventional reasons to explain them....the UFO phenomenon should now be viewed as only involving questions of misidentification,rare phenomenon and other such factors.The UFO enigma,in short, is standing on the point of final solution."

COSMOLOGY NEWSLINK (38p per issue, 16 Newton Green Gt Dunmow Essex CM6 1DU)
Return for a popular duplicated magazine of many years ago.A hodge-podge of things.This quote gives the flavour,"This issue of CNK (29) is really issue 30 due to our German issue being No1 (for Europe); it was No 26,the whole no. No 2 (for Europe) was No 27.Therefore the Suffolk landing issue should have been Issue 28,not 27.Issue 28 was supposed to be 29.Therefore this issue will have to be 29/30."If you understand that you might understand the rest of the magazine....just about!

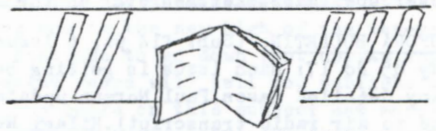
FATE (£1.05 UK, 500 Hyacinth Place Highland Park Illinois USA 60035) Jun/Jul/Aug issues to hand.(Monthly,130pp glossy) Jul - has a debate on the birth trauma hypothesis involving contributions from Alvin Lawson,Budd Hopkins,D.Scott Rogo et al.Also a retrospect on Carl Sagan & his theories.

MUFON JOURNAL (Monthly,with sub, $16 US, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas USA) One of the best value US mags.Mar new article by James McCampbell on car & train stop cases! Repros in its entirity the Ian Ridpath "Guardian" article explaining Rendlesham.And features Lucius Farish claiming Sky Crash tells untruths about his role (my reply is on its way to MJ!) Apr detailed JR update on Rendlesham into 1985.A review of Italian sightings 1980-1984 shows the drop off but at nothing like the UK rate.

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER (6 iss,$25 US, PO 1621,Lima,Ohio,45802) Jerry Clark's first full issue of the IUR as editor.What a shame it is so expensive (people complain about BUFORA but their rates are only the same as MUFONs). Nevertheless indispensible usually.Allen Hynek reports his 1985 research trip to Hessdalen,Sweden,with new photos.Jean Velasco,new head of GEPAN,breaks silence with his first public report! Plus a Bruce Maccabee investigation and yet more on the birth trauma theory from D.Scott Rogo.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

Plus new magazine update



Magazines:- Excellent news to report is that "The Unexplained",which ran for 156 issues between 1980 and 1983,is being resurrected.It will contain some of the old material (revised),but a lot of new material too.The case histories, for example,will come into line with the eighties.Most of the old firm of writers will be on call again, plus some new faces. Launch is planned for late September and there could well be a new title (not decided yet).One of the best things to ever happen on the UK magazine front I am sure the new version will be welcomed back by you all. Orbis are to be the publishers,part-work as before.

Meanwhile June 25 (July issue cover date) saw the launch of a rival publication;"The Unknown". Part of a stable which already prints "Destiny" and "Your Stars" (fortune telling magazines), this seems (on first issue basis) to be a sort of downmarket version of "The Unexplained". Topics covered are similar but it will be a monthly,magazine format, with the usual articles,reviews,reports and letters.Aside from the introduction reprinted from "Science and the UFOs" and a Michael Goss ghost investigation,the writers in No 1 (on topics from SHC through leys to the "Fatima UFO encounter"?) are mostly'unknowns'(appropriate However,material from people like Janet & Colin Bord,Tony Morrison,Peter Hough, and more from Michael Goss and JR is already slated for early issues (with a UFO sprinkling promised each issue).So,with luck, it could become a bright new face on the horizon. Cover price is 85p (from WH Smiths etc),sub, £12.30 for 12(82pp)NUN style (glossy cover) issues.(513 London Rd Thornton Heath Surrey)

Turning from the newstands two new group publications to announce. Firstly the West Yorkshire Group has rejigged their monthly A4 (14pp) and it is now called UFO BRIGANTIA (50p,plus post,per issue,from editor Paul Bennett at:- 26 Gerard House Fairhaven Green Thorpe Edge Bradford BD10 9QU

Paul Bennett is doing a super job of editing the publication and it is now one of the most lively in the field; always packed with a range of 'goodies' which could never be described as dull.As an illustration here is some of the content of current issues:- MAY (mystery energy fields,a CE4 bedroom visitor, earth-works at UFO sites and the 22 Jul 1984 CE3 which began the famous 23 Jul Leeds flap); JUN (and Jul)(WYUFORG report on their 23 Jul sightings.This issue also contains a fascinating article linking Yorkshire Ripper attacks with local UFO sightings.The editor requests NUFON help for missing dates - so I checked. There are correlations! Jul 5 1975 (first attack) there was a NUFON skywatch on! Early on Jul 6 several swooping yellow/orange balls of light were seen.A security guard at Warrington had a CE with one.Aug 15 1975 (attack two) two big sights! At 00.05 that day a Blackburn CE with a disc,and at 03.00 next night a multi-witness chase by police over the Pennine Hills (both recounted in a NUFON special issue at the time and reviewed in UFOs:A British Viewpoint).Jan 20 1976 (attack four) an 03.00 Jan 21 sighting of a ball of fire.Only May 9 1976 has no close relation- but at 06.00 on May 11,at Leigh,there was a CE3 sighting. I look forward to the promised second part of this article.

It is not clear whether WYUFORG will be sending reports to NUFON for summary in this magazine.None have arrived of late,although they speak of a "flap". I would be grateful for clarification on this point,so that NUFON records can be as accurate and useful as the above,come 1995.

The other new magazine to welcome is "Skyscan" (a revived name if ever there was one!) produced by WAPIT.£3 for 1985 (photocopied,10pp,A4)(from:- 73 Poplar Ave Worsley Hall Estate Pemberton Wigan WN5 9NX) Includes (first issue) copies of press articles, MoD letters (in which DS 8 at first denied a report they sent me in 1983;then said "oops" - we made an error.You bet!)Also an article by Malcolm Robinson on science research into UFOs.

David Clarke has supplied more data on his historical researches into pre 1947 UK sightings.He and Granville Oldroyd will be publishing in the autumn a very promising booklet titled "Spooklights" - a historical survey.A review will be in NUN as soon as poss.But it sounds (from hints offered) that this will include some startling evidence about the genesis of the cover up.Stay tuned! David,meanwhile,has an excellent summary article on the 1913 UK aircrships wave in QUEST (Mar/Apr).Well worth a look,especially for its checklist.

BOOKS:-

"The Right to Know" by Clive Ponting 214pp 1985 Sphere paperback £2.50

Ponting's own story of how he came to discover,as head of DS 5 at the MoD, that Heseltine & Stanley were mixed up in what he terms a "cover-up" to withold the truth from parliament and the public.How then he challenged the might of the system and was sent to trial at the Old Bailey under the Official Secrets Act. The jury,of course,acquited him in February 1985 - where the book ends. Very inciteful on MoD policy,how they write & rewrite letters to mislead and confuse, and the lengths to which they are prepared to go.The relevance to ufology will be obvious to any reader.Barrister,Jonathan Caplan,praised highly by Ponting throughout the book,is in fact a member of the FSR board - although that fact was (perhaps wisely) never brought out at the trial or in the book.

STOP PRESS...The long-awaited "novel" by ex DS-8 chief,Ralph Noyes,about UFO goings on in Rendlesham Forest (in 1990) is now out.A full review next issue, when I can figure out what to say! "A SECRET PROPERTY",Quartet Books, £7.95

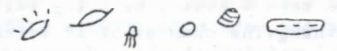
MEDIA MATTERS:-

A look at UFOs in the public eye

Not much in the way of sightings to report.The biggest article was in the North Wales Weekly News (25 Apr) "UFO riddle of lights that fell from the sky". What is fascinating about it is that it describes yet another case in the amazing April 1984 flap (all the more amazing as there were so few UFOs!) (See several recent issues of NUN - this included;case histories section). The article is an interview with famous investigator/repeater witness Margaret Fry,now residing in the Gwynedd village of Llangernyw,and relates the two balls of orange light seen by farmers landing in a field and next day how the army in a helicopter circled the area.(Our Mar/Apr issue relates how exactly this occurred in the wake of a contemporary Apr 84 sighting at Blairgowrie). Clearly amidst the UFO dearth something very important was going on. If Margaret (who reads these words) would send a report on her local sighting NUFON will compile a special issue on the April 1984 wave,and see what we have got! (Its years since we produced an out of series "special" - but I think these major, almost un-noticed,events deserve it!) Meanwhile the Leicester Mercury (31 May) describes how the "Leciester Chronicle" of 27 May 1843 includes a sighting of an "aerial machine" over Dane Hills with "smoke from its rear". I hope a local investigator will persue the full report of this ancient case; although a witness interview seems a bit unlikely! Stateside there are things going on,according to the Newcastle Journal (28 May).On 27 May 1985,at Rookport, Texas a UFO with rotating rings was reported by many and it stalled a car engine - the said car restarting again when the UFO left.What was that New Scientist said just 12 days before this! (see p.4).But,of course,we are left with naw't but IEOs,it would seem. Yorkshire Evening Post (28 Jun) has a heading,"Martians? Just the jet set".Red and white lights over Leeds were,it says, lights and afterburners from Jet Provosts on a training mission.Graham Birdsall for YUFOS is quoted as accepting the verdict,which the group noted beforehand. On the other side of the Pennines the Manchester Evening News (15 Jun) was having a field-day with its headline,"The greatest UFO...whoops!" As it says, in delightful fashion,"Was it a bird? Was it a plane? No - it's superboob" Emergency services in Ashton on Makerfield went on "full alert" the previous night when a UFO was spotted in this town,near Wigan.The witnesses cried "UFO," but police and fire-brigade assumed it was a hang-glider pilot making a daring emergency night landing.So out came the trucks,patrol cars,ladders,floodlights, the lot! A whole night of terror went by - and as dawn rose they found themselves staring at a giant kite snagged in a TV aerial! The emergency switchboard had been clogged and the floodlights had not properly illuminated the kite, enhancing the illusion for worried local residents.At the start of the fracas a Greater Manchester police spokesman had said,"We could look very foolish if it turns out to be a giant kite". In the grey light of morning said PC was, quote,"unavailable for comment". During efforts to release the kite it broke free and was last seen flying south towards Warrington - where your editor definitely did not have a close encounter! Perhaps WAPIT will have more for us on this marvellous tale.But, surprise,surprise,guess what has been really capturing the headlines down south.This year it even made the ITV network news,and I found myself having to explain the whole thing to not just the Daily Express but the Guardian! .Yes - you must have guessed it - the wrteched circles are back!

As long standing (weary) ufologists will know, this spot-the-circle has become a regular British past-time each June/July.The short-lived memories of the press regurgitate the matter every 12 months and this enhances in the sick minds of the tricksters,now (almost certainly) responsible for most of the events,the desire to see their handiwork in print.1985 has,so far as I know, generated just one set - of the five ring variety unlikely to be whirlwinds. As the West Sussex Gazette (4 Jul) shows,the circles are in a new place this year,off the A280 near Findon.But as this is near that "UFO hot spot" Clapham Woods (which had a brief flicker of fame some years back) this is doubtless pure "coincidence".The paper says they were found on June 30 (I was told by an Express journalist who has flown over them in a lightplane it was a week earlier).The angry farm manager explained he was certain it was a hoax (not at all what the Express told me he said!) He claimed he could see the feet marks where the hoaxers tried,but failed,to keep to tractor marks as they walked into the wheat.£100 of damage was done,he estimates.Police were said to be investigating.The headline "UFO hoax in Patching wheat field" seems explicit enough to me.Next day,however,5 Jul, the West Sussex County Times was more assertive.It photod and interviewed a "psychic" who had seen the marks and was now taking samples for "psychometric analysis".A "UFO watcher" appeared on the scene and made some noises.And several reports of UFOs in the area,including one by the "psychic" 20 years ago (the latest was 8 years back!) were trotted out as if they meant something."UFO theory on mystery circles" was the rather different headline here.Finally,the Brighton Argus (6 Jul) says,"Field ring: 'don't rule out UFO'". Why? Well,Mr Charles Walker,chairman of the "Southern Area Paranormal Investigation Group" says they "could have been made by a visitor from space". How come? Seems that in 1975 some dogs went missing. Also "people reported strange feelings in the area a couple of years ago". Ho hum! Allegedly five people saw some lights over local woods "only a few days before the marks appeared", but Mr Walker had no more to add, although he has apparently penned a book about local events titled "The occult connection in the rape of Bramber". Sounds a lot more interesting than these circles. The Daily Express man,on July 17,spent almost two hours trying to convince me that the reason the marks were not the same size or even perfect circles was because the UFO had retractable legs which skidded on impact.He also says the farmer saw some morning mist rising from the circles when he discovered them at 6am on a hot day.But, of course, this mist was really traces of the UFOs exhaust fumes! The saddest thing of all was that the journalist was being quite serious.God help us! To leave on a smile I loved the 8 Jun episode of "Benson" where the man himself had a Close Encounter (done remarkably well).Whilst this a comedy show the humour almost took second place to an obvious real concern about CE4 cases.But I liked the bit where the governor describes the UFO as shaped like a lollipop.One staff member comments "Intergalactic travel is a definite possibility but I didn't think you could do it in a lollipop." Benson adds,"Especially not if you fly too close to the sun," and is told,"Maybe that's why they come at night." So now we know!

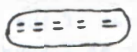
BRIEF CASES: Some current investigations



SPOT THE IFO... On 31 Dec 1978 Mrs SM was driving from Wallasey to Ellesemere Port along the M53,time about 7.10-15 pm. She observed a strange aircraft/airship travelling NW-SE along the Mersey,definitely a "constructed device".It was cigar shaped with portholes on the edge,and it was in view a couple of minutes before streaking out of view. What did she see? (See over page)

Spot the UFO answer...

This is what Mrs SM saw



As experienced investigators should know by now on Dec 31 1978 Cosmos 1068 hits re-ente red the atmosphere over the UK and gave a spectacular show for several minutes.Many of the witnesses saw it as depicted.

UFO observes a local war

BUFORA member RL Hilton, now working in Oman, was an ex Rhodesian Air Force man in 1972-73,based at Umtali,now in Zimbabwe,during the war at that time. It was 3pm on a sunny day when at about 5000 ft a long cyliadrical object appeared and flew east to west.It was rotating on its axix and definitely had no wings.The metallic structure glinted in the sun.He ran indoors to collect binoculars but the swiftly moving craft had gone when he returned.He is certain it was not a civil or military plane,and the local hostilities virtually preclude that.Could it have been an RPV type of spyplane? Mr Hilton,adds incidentally, that as a radio ham he used to listen to all the sixties spaceflights and was tuned in once when an astronaut started to describe their capsule being paced bya UFO."The transmission was very clear", he adds,"But was cut off" very suddenly,in a form of censorship.There have been many rumours of this sort of thing but its the first time I have come across an alleged first hand witness.

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Case 8503 May 17 1985 23.45 Scholes,Wigan,Gt Mcr Inv: WAPIT

Four witnesses observed a red light travelling slowly towards Wigan centre. It was silent and in view a couple of minutes by two of the witnesses (a bit less by the other two who were called out to see it). Little to go on, but this was a Friday night and is reminiscent of the Swissair Do-9 cargo plane which plagued ufo societies in the late seventies and early eighties as it glided (engines off or powered down) with tail-fin illumination producing the red effect.(See PENNINE UFO MYSTERY,where the airline is called AIR CARGO 101)

Case 8504 June 23 1985 18.50 Heaton Norris,Stockport,Gt Mcr Inv:MUFORA

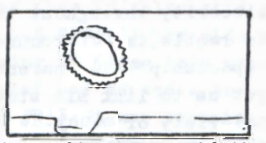
Reported by the four witnesses to the "Stockport Express" (27 June), the reporter contacted MUFORA within 24 hours of the sighting after Jodrell Bank had suggested this.The sighting was not pursued beyond this.21 yr old Cheryl Kilcoyne and 18 yr old friend Wendy Ostcik, plus Cheryl's husband John and an unknown fourth person,all watched a bright silvery ball in the sky for 5/6 mins.It was "level with a plane ona flightpath into Ringway buf was bobbing up and down travelling much slower".Ringway refused to be drawn but said there was nothing on radar.However,Cheryl claims that "The amazing thing is that over dinner I had been describing a UFO I sighted nine years ago in Macclesfield. It looked exactly the same." And she added,"It must have beeh a genuine UFO," MUFORA disagreed and told the press so,Being a Sunday evening in Summer it may have been a kite , or a toy balloon, or a weather balloon, or...well almost anything.The chances of it being a bona-fide UFO are negligible.

Case 8505 July 1 1985 01.00 Macclesfield ,Cheshire Inv: Paul Wilson MUFORA

And talking of Macclesfield,precisely seven days later Jodrell Bank were in action again,channeling through an elderly lady who reluctantly shared her experience.JR was satisfied it could be explained, but local ASSAP member (and NUM reader) Paul Wilson agreed to look into it.Mrs H could not sleep because of the heat and was wandering round the house without her (needed) spectacles .She glanced south out of a window and saw the moon (full on Jul 2) near it being a fuzzy yellow/white oval blob about one-third moon size.It appeared stationary,but was seen to be growing bigger.Then she realised it was flying towards her.She called her husband,and he arrived at the window in time to see it pass out of sight overhead.It was a rectangular/ cigar shape.No pulsing lights.A faint hum or buss was heard as it passed on top of them.Duration about 1 minute.The witness feels certain it was not a plane because of its virtual silence,but Ringway was very busy at the time with holiday night flights (which deliberately throttle engines back).It was heading straight for the airport and this is a normal in-flight route. In view of her tiredness and lack of spectacles the conclusion seems fairly clear.

Case 8506 July 7 1985 01.05 Pemberton,Wigan,Gt Mcr Inv: WAPIT

Mrs M (an elderly lady) was drawing her curtains in the bedroom when she saw an "angled oval" shape,stationary in the sky,which was growing brighter and dimmer as she watched it.Her 20 yr old son was called,but despite seeing it he passed it off as just a bright star,thus returning to bed.Mrs M continued to watch and the object now set off moving in a NW direction,still dimming and brightening.Several other witnesses said that they observed the same object over Wigan late the previous night.WAPIT find the case unexplained.But it is possible that a well lit aircraft could be responsible (again Ringway would be very busy at this time on a weekend).The dimming and brightening may have been the navigation lights,masked by the cabin illumination which would remain on all the time.But this is just a guess.



CASE HISTORIES

A WITNESS TO THE GODFREY ABDUCTION? MUFORA investigation Peter Hough & J R

Case 8092 14 January 1980 Heald Moor,Todmorden,Lancs/Yorks border.

This potentially important case had a sorry genesis.The priciple witness told nobody of his experience (not even his wife) for almost 2 years.Then he read about the Alan Godfrey abduction at Todmorden and wrote to the national newspaper (Sunday Mirror) which featured it (Dec 1981).Nothing happened.From this time on the witness began to link his experience with the Godfrey case, to the point where it is hard to know how much of his present testimony is effected by this.The man says he did not want to report the matter "down south" but to somebody northern.Hence he did nothing else until in May 1984 a local Burnley paper discussed UFOs and interviewed OSEAP member David Rees,who was skeptical.So the witness decided not to write to him.Finally in October 1984 he wrote to the Granada TV consumer advice programme "This is Your Right" and they directed him to BUFORA in London.But,because of his desire to avoid the south,he did not do so.In November he met Harry Harris and Alan Godfrey at a lecture in Burnley,but was so skeptical of hypnosis he decided not to talk to them of his experience.He wrote to Harry Harris (getting his address from a

directory,but Harry Harris (by now expelled from MUFORA) did not reply. Finally, in desperation,he did write to BUFORA in February 1985 and this reached Jenny Randles next month - allowing she and Peter Hough to commence an on-site investigation. (At last!)

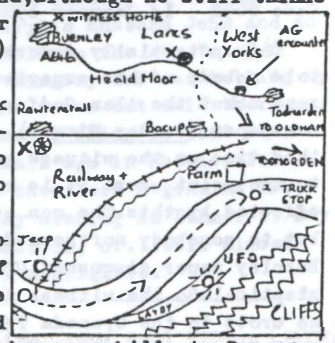
All these unfortunate facts must seriously dilute the nature of the story.

The witness in question is 60-yr old WCB,who lives at Barrowford,near Burnley,Lancs.He had an eventuful war,seving in the North Sea in a ship which was sunk and rescuing one fellow crewman,before succumbing to several weeks in psychiatric hospital.He has worked a full lifetime as a truck driver for one single Nelson firm,although it went into liquidation in June 1980 (five months after the encounter).He quickly got another job,driving for a different firm,which he still holds, although(as he puts it)"something has gone wrong with my mind" since the encounter.He cites an inexplicable black out in November 1981 when he ran his car into the back of one driven by a Polish Priest, on the notorious "Death Valley" section of the M62. It should be noted that Alan Godfrey suffered mini-time-lapses like this too.(Although WCB has not read THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY,knew nothing of UFOs other than what he had read in the press,and the blackouts of AG were not in there)

WCB ola ms no previous history of paranormal happenings, but does say that since the encounter he has had many vivid dreams reliving it.These add no new details.Whilst being a raoconteur the investigators were persuaded of his sincerity throughout the investigation.Neferheless he had a definite tendancy to ramble,to interconnect probably unconnected facts,and used terms like "decoy" "spaceship" and "parent-sh p" regularly.He tried very hard (unconsciously) to get us to link his story with that of AG.But he is not fired for a desire for notoriety or money.He has come up with many weird ideas about alien motives and power sources since the encounter, but these appear to be side issues. MUFORA is satisfied that something happened to him in the first place.

Typical of the way his mind works (complicating the investigation greatly) was his attempt to invest strangeness in something occurring in December 1979 at the exact same point of road where his later encounter happened.Basically he saw a jeep on the railway lines and as he drove by a police car pulled out of the lay-by (prominent in his UFO sighting) and he told them of the jeep.So what - you might say? But he wants to link policemen in with his story any which way he can.

So to the events of 14 Jan 1980 (ten months before the Godfrey abduction - which WCB realises,and has never tried to argue around,although he still thinks it relevant).WCB had a delivery at Hollingworth,near Oldham,but did not take the direct route (via Bacup) as he had something to drop off in Todmorden on the way.So he left deliberately early (at 05.45) and took the A646 from Burnley across Healf Moor and the county border to Todmorden.It was very cold and with no moon or stars visible.We timed the route from his house to the site (15 mins), but on icy roads at very slow speeds his estimate of being at the sighting location at about 06.15 is reasonable.This is at OS Ref (103) 888270,at the point where the A646 crosses the railway and River Calder.To the left is a valley and two farms,to the right a very steep cliff face climbing over hills to Rossendale,with the lay-by beneath the cliffs at the roadside.



Approaching the lay-by he first became aware of a deep hum,like a generator, even though his cab windows were closed.He was driving a 1977 10-Ton Ford Custom owned by the mill he drove for and sold when it closed.

Almost coincident with the sound WCB spotted a dark outline shape on the ground in the lay-by.It gave the appearance of a darkened toastrack with three red rays projecting to the ground from the fore.He assumed some workmen were making an early start to lay tar and slowed to a crawl,passing right by the object (about 25 feet,as we measured it,to his right).

From the side view the object now looked more like a tortoiseshell and the lightbeams had become "mixed with white"(by the last sight the beams had turned white and this different colour according to the angle variation greatly puzzles the witness even now).The beams emerged from holes in a rim about a third of the way up the side.On top of the structure was a curved pipe going into thin air and this,WCB had assumed, was the escape pipe for the gases of the truck.Now he was sure it was not a truck he presumed whatever it was (experimental army vehicle perhaps?) was refuelling.But as soon as he realised that the pipe lead into thin air he dismissed the thought.He was not very concerned because two men stood in front of it,and he assumed they were the drivers.He could only see them in silhouette against the light beams.One had arms by his side and WCB claimed "it was definitely a policeman".On questioning it seems this was a comment based solely on the fact that the man had a peaked cap on and a two-piece uniform.The other wore a silver or grey one-piece suit.He was stooping down as if inspecting the craft. From these scanty facts WCB seems to think he saw Alan Godfrey being abducted, despite the date (which he believes to be accurate because (a) it was an anniversary of his service induction and (b) it was written into his log-book - although he could not find this when we asked to see it).

At no point did WCB see either men enter the craft.As he drove by they remained virtually static.He noticed an interesting effect on the silhouttes.They were breaking up in the lights (almost as inside a disco,where laser beam effects produce a strobe situation).The beams were so bright they caused the bracken at the roadside to glow dull red and created shadows on the craft itself.WCB was focusing on the central ray as he went past and it appeared to rotate, but his eyes were fussing and his mind was clouding over too,as many things began to happen at once.

He had passed the object but was still level with the lay-by (looking back). WCB estimates it took him 1-2 minutes from seeing the UFO.But we timed the 100 yards distance and even crawling it is unlikely to have been more than half that time.

Suddenly the truck lost power to its lights.The road ahead plunged into darkness (there are no streetlights or houses around).His mind was also "funny" and Ox Factor effects were taking over.The truck engine continued to run (WCB, still alledging no UFO knowledge,says this was "because it was a diesel - the engines stop because it gets the spark in the spark plug.That can't happen with a diesel."

By now (just seconds later) he had no visual impression of the object and he appeared to be losing consciousness.He never saw the "UFO" again.His next memory is of being jolted as if his body were jerking,still in his cab,an unspecified distance along the road.He is not sure where (his mind was still very hazy) but

it was before the outskirts of Todmorden.He was stationary,the engine was idling,abd the lights were back on.All he could think was "I've escaped" and he drove on with the roads oddly quiet and clarity not returning until he reached the exact spot where AG later had his abduction.Of course,this might be another one of the ways WCBs memory has altered since the AG story came out.But he insists here he first saw people (it is about 2½ miles along the same A646 from the spot where WCB claims his encounter)

He says he felt strange and "my mind was all queer" and although he vaguely noted that the sky was lightening (which it ought not to be) he drove past the police station not noting the time."Let the policemen tell his story" he claims he thought.

He did drop his parcel off,again without noting the time, but someone was present to collect it which (in retrospect) he found odd,as at about 06.30 it should have been all shuttered up.He continued to Oldham (it should have been 07.00 at the latest).But it was broad daylight and another delivery truck which he should have got there well before was waiting for him.Not having a watch he found someone and asked the time.It was then 09.10, which (he believes) leaves almost two hours of time missing.

On the drive to Oldham he noticed that his left leg was aching.But upon arrival home that evening it still hurt and he felt extremely tired.He went to bed early and on undressing noted a star-like bruise,pale blue in colour and the size of a 10p piece,behind the knee on his left leg.Inside 24 hours the aching and bruise vanished.He has no idea where they came from and does not believe he could have received them,or knocked himself unconscious,when the truck stopped,ad he was virtually stationary when he lost awareness.

He did not report the headlight problem,"I was sure the UFO did it and it would be alright now".Nor did he notice any unusual fuel consumption.Idling the truck for 2 hours would have had an effect.The road is narrow and bends a lot at that point .How could he have been stopped there for any length of time without being noticed?

We checked the farm beside where these events happened.After some time in persuading the family we were not from "Game for a laugh" (!) we discovered they had moved in well after the events but had heard stories of UFOs in the area (with the Rossendale valley just over the hills that is not surprising) They did note that their electricity supply had gone off a couple of times inexplicably, but in a remote area that may well be something and nothing.

Clarifying this case is next to impossible.The effects of WCBs belief that what he saw is related to the Godfrey abduction just down the road are inextricably linked in with his testimony.At no time did the UFO fly - so it cannot even really be called a UFO at all! Could it have been a fantasy built round a council tar machine? The shape,pipe and generator hum are not out of keeping with such vehicles.Neither road nor lay-by has been retarred, but it could have been resting there and firing up prior to setting off on its route....maybe. But what about the effects on man and truck and the time lapse?

To date WCB has refused regression hypnosis saying "you can't be made to remember things you don't remember". But we will keep our eyes on this one.

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THE IMPOSTER. BUFORA investigation by Paul Fuller

This is another weird case in that April 1984 mini-wave.It happened on 23 April at a place called Lavant,West Sussex, and lead to a frustrating investigation.

This strange affair began in a very innocuous way.Mr C (a 21 yr old) and a 79 year old neighbour Mrs K both sent written accounts (very brief) under cover of Mr C.BUFORA received these in May.They were allegedly written on the same day as the sighting...21.45 on 23 April 1984.

The two accounts are fairly consistant and refer to two bright lights over the Sussex Downs.One drops something to the ground.The whole area is illuminated,and after ten minutes or so they flew off.Nothing at all special.

Paul Fuller only decided to visit both witnesses in Lavant because he had nothing else on at the time.He fully expected this was a simple IFO. Agreeing a meeting date of 21 July he was met at the station in Chichester by Mr C who in his letter accepting the appointment had called himself (without any explanation) Lt.C! (His letters were all hand written in writing which sloped all over the place,had awful spelling, no technical data and strange idiosyncracies like calling Chichester Chi).

Lt.C had asked Paul to bring proof of identity and now claimed he had taken photos but that these were at "Wright Patt" (Wright Patterson AFB,USA,) where he had friends.Any not classified(R) (Restricted,presumably) would be made available later.Neither he,in his first letter,nor Mrs K,had mentioned these before.

At the station Lt.C (wearing what seemed to be a blue Air Force uniform and heavy boots) explained that Mrs K did not want to get involved,that he had forgotten that he had to travel that day,and so the interview would have to occur outside in Chichester.They sat on a park bench for a couple of hours whilst Lt.C looked around as if it were a James Bond movie.

He now repeated his story in much greater detail.Many facts were 100 per cent different from his letter of 10 weeks before.(Eg the UFO left north instead of south).He now claimed he just happened to have a "standard recon issue" Zenit camera when he was walking the dog with his neighbour.He had taken 12 photos of the lights.

Lt.C claimed to be a "liaison officer" in the RAF at Alconbury near Cantebury (it took Paul Fuller hours to find out back home that there is an RAF Alconbury - 100 miles from Kent,near Cambridge!) He claimed to be trained in aircraft recognition and "proved" this by sketching various aircraft lights from various angles (taking the drawings with him when he left).He was leaving in August for the USA where he expected to become a USAF officer at Edwards Airforce Base.In his last letter he gave a ridiculous forwarding address (basically "The US Air Force,Washington" !) He claimed to have seen a security file on the investigator and would be "debriefed" later.He added,"I am supposed to get a photo of you but I can't be bothered."

This disconcerting interview over,Lt.C wrote the next day (22 Jul) saying that "due to information unavailable to me at the time of our meeting" all communication must cease.This involves Mrs K too.His photos were all R class. And would remain so - "until which time the Air Force deem that no hostile action can be taken for certain parties" (??). Paul did try to communicate with Mrs K but she confirmed she did not want to talk about the sighting at all.

Meanwhile a letter to a local airfield trying to trace helicopters etc which might explain the sighting suggested Paul contact Patrick Moore because he had explained the case as balloons! Twin lighted balloons seem improbable and the facts of the case (even the original watered down more consistant facts) appear out of phase with that.But Paul wrote to PM - a detailed,careful letter asking for the evidence.PM replied,curtly,"No mystery.It was a weather balloon.Fully confirmed" In other words - a big help.

Finally,Paul decided to try the obvious.Talk to Lt.Cs father.Here he was

rather surprised to learn that his dad knew nothing about "Lt.Cs" sighting, photos,or even that he was in the Air Force...although he admitted "he keeps himself to himself a lot"!The lad had been in the Territorial army,probably where the uniform came from.He wrote to the air force a lot and kept trying to get visas to visit America.As far as his dad knew Mr C was in a youth training scheme rebuilding an old church.

And so - we seem to have some sort of hoax. The witness is a "Billy Liar" type,as Paul Fuller suggests.Of course, where Patrick Moore's balloons come from is another matter.Nice as he is,PM does have a lot in common with hot air.

FINAL WORDS

Stop press sad news is that Coral Lorenzon of APRO is seriously ill and APRO publications have ceased.APRO are the oldest American group (I think the oldest group in the world) and Coral and husband Jim have been with the UFO field from the word go. We wish her well and a speedy recovery.APRO ought to be back in the fore of world research, where they belong.

Readers will have noticed that this issue (a) is printed differently and (b) has a different (rather makeshift) cover. We have tried a new printers as an experiment this issue;but we have not decided where to place the regular order yet.Costs come into it a good deal,of course.If we change,a new (proper) permanant cover will be used...Perhaps you would like to design one for us? Hint! Or else we will return to the old cover design. Let us know what you want.

CALENDER

Sep 7 BUFORA lecture programme restarts with Bertil Kuhlemann on the future of UFO research. (Usual venue,L.B.S., 6.30pm)

Oct 26 Second ASSAP "Northern Groups Paranprmal studies" meeting. will discuss cases etc.(Details from MUFORA - venue M/Cr)

Nov 2 BUFORA NIC (pre BUFORA lecture,same venue,2.30pm) (All active investigators welcome)

Nov 16 ASSAP 1985 AGM - Sheffield (speakers,venue etc next issue)

UFO RESEARCH NORTH...NUFON Regional Groups

ScUFON	(Scotland)	41 Leven Court Alloa	Clackmannanshire	FK10 1QL
SDPRG	(N.East)	53 Brook Terrace Darlington Co.	Durham	DL 3 6PJ
NLUFOIG	(N.Lancs,Cumbria)	8 Beulah Avenue Morecambe	Lancs	LA 4 6UD
DIGAP	(S.Lancs)	24 Bent Fold Drive Unsworth Bury	Lancs	BL 9 8NG
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MUFORA	(G.Mc & Cheshire)	6 Silsden Ave Lowton Gtr Manchester		WA 3 1EN
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